

There are no claim amendments in this response, however, for the convenience of the Examiner, a current listing of the claims follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A modular animal enclosure, comprising:

a housing comprising a base portion and a top portion attached to the base portion to form a sheltered interior, the housing including a door aperture to permit ingress of an animal into said interior and a climate conditioning aperture to accommodate a flow of atmospheric air between the interior and an external environment; and

a climate conditioning unit configured for removeable attachment to the housing adjacent the climate conditioning aperture, the climate conditioning unit contactingly supported by the housing at a position a selected distance away from the climate conditioning aperture so as to form a gap therebetween, the climate conditioning unit facilitating said flow of atmospheric air through the gap and through the climate conditioning aperture to the interior.

2. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning unit comprises a cover assembly comprising a plate member having a cross-sectional area greater than the cross-sectional area of the climate conditioning aperture, wherein the plate member is supported by the housing at least at one location adjacent to, and outside of, the climate conditioning aperture.

3. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 2, wherein at least one post projects from the plate member and into a corresponding post aperture in the housing at said at least one location.

4. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 3, wherein an insertion depth of the post into the respective post aperture can be slidingly adjusted to alter a cross-sectional thickness of the gap between the cover assembly and the top cover.

5. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning unit comprises a cooled air unit which supplies cooled air to the interior.

6. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning unit comprises a fan unit which directs increased velocity ambient air through the climate conditioning aperture.

7. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning unit comprises a heating unit which supplies heated air to the interior.

8. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning unit comprises a radiant heat source which directs radiant heat into the interior.

9. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning unit extends through the climate conditioning aperture and into the housing interior.

10. (withdrawn) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning unit is supported over the climate conditioning aperture so as to not extend into the housing interior.

11. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning aperture is substantially rectangular in cross-sectional extent.

12. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 11, wherein the rectangular cross-sectional extent has a minimum dimension of at least four inches.

13. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the top portion is sized to nest within the base portion when the top portion is inverted.

14. (withdrawn) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the base portion is substantially planar and the top portion has a substantially spherical shape.

15. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, wherein the climate conditioning aperture is centered in the top portion over the sheltered interior of the housing.

16. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, further comprising a sensor which detects an ambient condition, and wherein the climate conditioning unit operates in response to said detected ambient condition.

17. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 1, further comprising an animal proximity sensor which detects the presence of the animal within the interior, and wherein the climate conditioning unit operates in response to said detected presence of the animal.

18. (original) A modular animal enclosure, comprising:
a housing comprising a base portion and a top portion removably attached to the base portion to form a sheltered interior, the housing including a door aperture to permit ingress of an animal into said interior and a climate conditioning aperture to accommodate a flow of atmospheric air between the interior and an external environment; and
means for facilitating said flow of atmospheric air through the climate conditioning aperture.

19. (original) The modular animal enclosure of claim 18, further comprising means for allowing pivotal movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in alternate, opposing first and second directions.

20. (original) The modular animal enclosure of claim 18, further comprising means for sensing the presence of the animal within the interior, and wherein the facilitating means is operationally responsive to the sensing means.

21. (original) The modular animal enclosure of claim 18, further comprising means for detecting an ambient condition, and wherein the facilitating means is operationally responsive to the detecting means.

22. (original) A modular animal enclosure comprising a base portion and a top portion attached to the base portion to form a housing with a sheltered interior and a door aperture to permit ingress of an animal into said interior, wherein the top portion is configured to be hinged to the base portion to facilitate access to the interior by pivotal movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in a first direction by at least one hinge pin which projects through respective first hinge apertures in the base portion and in the top portion on a first side of the housing, and wherein the base portion and top portion further comprise respective second hinge apertures on a second side of the housing opposite the first side so that the hinge pin can be alternately inserted through the second hinge apertures to facilitate access to the interior by pivotal movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in a second direction.

23. (original) The animal enclosure of claim 22, wherein the top portion is sized to nest within the base portion when the top portion is inverted.

24. (withdrawn) The animal enclosure of claim 22, wherein the base portion is substantially planar and the top portion has a substantially spherical shape.

25. (original) A modular animal enclosure, comprising:

a housing comprising a base portion and a top portion removably attached to the base portion to form a sheltered interior, the housing including a door aperture to permit ingress of an animal into said interior and a climate conditioning aperture to accommodate a flow of atmospheric air between the interior and an external environment;

means for facilitating said flow of atmospheric air through the climate

conditioning aperture; and

means for allowing pivotal movement of the top portion with respect to the base portion in alternate, opposing first and second directions.